Funds for Quake Victims

4067. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Blitz Hindi issue of 18th January, 1992 under the caption "Sare Dollar Kahan Kaye";

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to inquire into the collection and utilization of funds collected by various agencies for the quake victims in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Facts are being ascertained from the concerned agencies.

Operation Flood Project

4068. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any targets had been fixed for operation flood I, II, III as also for World Bank-aided dairy projects in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, if so, the details thereof indicating the actual achievements against each target, project-wise and State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated for each of these targets, State-wise and actual expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that funds were diverted to favourite States and from Milk production to milk processing and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether objective of attaining self-sufficiency in milk production for four metro cities by 1975 and for the country by 1985 has been achieved and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Food and Agriculture Organisation

4069. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the open letter to the Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, written by about 50 organisations and groups published in March/April, 1991 issue of "The Ecologist";

(b) whether it is a fact that in the said letter, Food and Agriculture Organisation's policies have been blamed for causing famines ecological destruction and social alienation;

(c) whether member States have been urged to withhold payments from Food and Agriculture Organisation pending radical reappraisal of its policies and restructuring of its administrative set-up; and

(d) what view Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No organisation or group endorsing the open letter to the Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations have approached Government of India in this regard.

Development of Fisheries in Andhra Pradesh

4070. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has agreed to give loan for the development of Fisheries in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Shrimp and Fish Culture Project approved by the World Bank in the meeting of the Executive Board of Directors held at Washington on 14.1.92 envisages development of about 1393 ha| brackishwater area in Nellore, Prakasam, Krishna and East Godavari districts and 15.300 ha. of reservoirs in 7 districts *viz.* Chittoor Karim nagar, Khammam, Krishna, Medak, Nellore and Nizamabad districts. The project will become credit effective from 1st May, 1992 for implementation over a 7 year period. The total estimated project cost in Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 88.13 crore. About 90 per cent of the total cost is expected to be provided by the World Bank as loan assistance.

International Rice Research Institute

4071. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "International Rice Research Institute" has warned that the production of rice would decrease due to the gradual weakness of ozone layer; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Diseases from Pesticides Poisoning

4072. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express (Bombay) of 19th February, 1992 about the death of over 150 people in Basti District (U.P.) by consuming wheat contaminated by pesticides;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases of blindness, cancer deformities, diseases of liver and nervous system from pesticides poisoning have been identified in the cotton growing districts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, what are the details of the cases and the compensation paid to the families of the victims; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to make the people aware about the hazardous effects of the pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The Government has taken several steps to ensure that pesticides are safely handled and used. Some of the major steps taken are given below:

(i) The label and leaflets which inveriably accompany the pesticides container give directions on the usage, safety measures to be observed, first-aid measures and anticlotes to be used in case of accidental poisoning.

(ii) The extension functionaries impart training to farmers and other users on various aspects of pesticide handling and usage including precautions required to be observed.

(iii) The manufacturers of pesticides either individually or through the Associations also organise demonstrations and training programmes at various levels to advocate safe and judicious use of pesticides.

(iv) The Registration Committee set up under the Inseticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after evaluating their safety and efficacy.